



NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE
the marquee • volume 14 no. 1

Fall, 1987



Author William Burroughs and friends

LIM/BURROUGHS COLLABORATION PREMIERS AT LAWRENCE COMMUNITY THEATRE

The multifarious talents of two long-time Lawrence residents combined in a smash coup for Lawrence Community Theatre. Internationally renowned novelist William S. Burroughs and award-winning playwright Paul Stephen Lim meshed their talents to produce "Lee and the Boys in the Backroom" that premiered May 8.

How "Lee and the Boys..." began life is a novel in itself. Lim approached Burroughs to ask if he "might have something in his files of a theatrical nature" which he would like to try in front of a live audience for two script-in-hand performances only, in the style of readers' theatre. Burroughs was enthusiastic, but his schedule did not permit him to commit to complete a script in time for late April or early May.

The theatre then asked Lim if there was any book by Burroughs which might be adapted for the LCT stage. After ten days of speed-reading everything in print by Burroughs, Lim decided the novel *Queer* had dramatic possibilities. Not only is

Queer the most linear of Burroughs' works, but it is also the most deeply personal.

It became clear that this was going to be no ordinary project. Two script-in-hand performances would not be sufficient to accommodate the many fans of Burroughs and Lim in Lawrence, so the decision was made to mount a full-scale five performance production. Personnel were recruited and began work on the many technical and production elements of the show before Lim had even written one page of dialogue! Burroughs and the actors were given the script to work on in 20-page installments. The phenomenal feat of achieving a finished script was accomplished by Lim in a mere four weeks. Contrary to Lim's prediction, it was not necessary for the men from Menninger's to cart him away after this chore was completed.

For his adaptation of *Queer*, Lim worked not only from the novel but also from the unpublished correspondence (1949-1952) of Bur-

roughs, mostly letters to Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. According to Lim, "Lee and the Boys in the Backroom" is about a writer desperately in search of an audience. He finds this first in the people around him—his wife, his friends and lovers—but when they all ultimately prove unsatisfying, he turns to the best and most reliable audience of all: his typewriter. Thus, "Lee and the Boys..." is about the Joycean forging of a sensitivity who will one day become William S. Burroughs. The play is raucous and rambunctious one moment, lyrical and bittersweet the next. It is true in spirit to Burroughs. The play features nine actors playing forty different parts—Roman soldiers, Arab boys, Mexican bandits, even Marlene Dietrich in drag!

"Lee and the Boys..." went on to play to sell-out houses for its first run.

(Excerpted from Lawrence Community Theatre Newsletter, April 1987)

Kansas Community Theatre Conference Reports...

The Community Theatre Division of AKT, KCTC, congratulates Wichita Community Theatre for their entry of "Philadelphia, Here I Come!" as the regional first place winner and national third place winner (out of 450 entries!!) at the American Association of Community Theatre's national festival in Norman, Oklahoma this past June. We are all proud of your good work!

The task force met and decided on the following items concerning future AACT/FESTs:

- Theatres may bring plays to the festival as competing or as non-competing entries. It is desired that theatres have the opportunity to share their skills regardless of competition.
- Private adjudication will be re-established. One adjudicator will meet with each company privately for dialogue.
- Only competing entries will receive public adjudication.
- An attempt will be made to have at least one adjudicator with playwriting experience.
- Both competing and non-competing theatres will pay the same entry fee.
- A paper explaining the value of adjudication will be prepared for all theatres.
- An attempt will be made to prepare a videotape of one theatre receiving adjudication as an example for other theatres.

The Fall Meeting of KCTC was held Saturday, October 3 at Topeka Civic Theatre. Although the attendance was not large this year, there were a number of theatres represented for the first time. In the morning, the group engaged in a lively and stimulating discussion of the common problems met in community theatres. After lunch and a tour of Topeka Civic, the group reconvened for presentations on funding from representatives of Southwestern Bell Telephone and the Kansas Arts Commission.

— Linda Lea Borden
KCTC President



AKT 1988 ANNUAL CONVENTION PLANS IN THE WORKS ANNOUNCING CONVENTION THEME: "WHAT WORKS FOR US NOW!"

Plans are being carefully laid for AKT's fourteenth annual convention. The Convention Planning Committee has been meeting and reports that this convention without a doubt will provide challenges and stimulation for all.

WHEN

Friday thru Sunday
February 19-21, 1988

WHERE

Ramada Hotel
at
Broadview Place
400 West Douglas
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 262-5000
1-800-272-6232 (Reservations)

WHAT

Speakers:

Gordon McKenzie of Hallmark Cards, Inc., and also a major playwright soon to be announced.

Workshops and Panels:

Acting • Theatre and the Hearing Impaired • Arts and the Handicapped • Grant-writing • Make-up With an Expert • Designing • Puppetry • Public Relations • Marketing Your Theatre • Directing Symposium • Costuming on a Budget • "School's Out/Theatre's In" Children's Theatre Program • Playwriting • "Underage" Theatre for Teens • Creative Drama for Children • Producing • Formal Papers • and MORE!

In addition:

Dinner Theatre, possibly at the Crown Uptown Theatre for their production of "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" • Critiqued Theatre Design Exhibition • University/College Theatre Festival • Auditions • Exhibits • Great Eats • Parties.

Convention Planning Committee:

Lynn Black (Chair), Don Smith (Local Arrangements Chair), Jackie Hinton, Teresa Stohs, Laurie VanderPol-Hosek, Ron Willis, Terry McGonigle and Louise Hanson.

**ALL SYSTEMS ARE "GO!" FOR AN ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIC CONVENTION.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

MARQUEE MISCELLANEY

Lynn Black, AKT President-elect and 1988 Convention Chair, has received a 1987 Outstanding Advisor award from the American College Testing National Academic Advising Association through its national recognition program for academic advising. Lynn is Assistant Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts at Emporia State University.

Lynn's book, *Mikhail Chekhov as Actor, Director, and Teacher* (1987) has recently been published by UMI Research Press.

Jed H. Davis, a past President and long-time friend of AKT was recently inducted as an Honorary Fellow by the Mid-America Theatre Conference. Jed, Professor Emeritus at the University of Kansas, has served as President of ATA and is internationally acclaimed for his contributions to theatre for young people.

Children in the sixth grade and Middle

School at Hugoton have written and staged three new plays under the direction of Artist-in-Education, **Repha Buckman**. The plays, *There Are No Such Things as Ghosts*, *The Case of the Missing Teacher* and *The Counterfeit Girlfriend* are to be published this summer.

These scripts will be deposited in the AKT Script Library upon publication for access by other student groups.

Repha has written an adaptation of *Peter and the Wolf* which is scheduled for performance by "Starmakers," an open access theatre company sponsored by the City of Carlsbad Parks and Recreation Department and the Association for Retarded Citizens, North San Diego County. This production utilizes live actors in combination with masks and puppets.

Thanks to Twink Lynch and Topeka Civic Theatre for hosting the fall AKT-member community theatres (KCTC) meeting on Saturday, October 3.

Theatre in Shawnee Mission Park suffered a ruinous fire in their concession building this past August, apparently caused by arson. The main stage, we understand, was spared the same fate by the quick response of the fire department.

On a happier note, **Demmaree Carns** informs us that the theatre is presenting a special benefit, encore performance of "A Chorus Line" at the Shawnee Mission South Auditorium, Fri/Sat, November 20 and 21 at 8:00 p.m. For tickets, call (913) 831-3355.

We hear from **Charles Kephart** that **Salina Community Theatre** is undertaking a major expansion project for the theatre.

Congratulations to **Dona Freeman**, **Wichita Community Theatre** actress and volunteer who has been chosen to perform the one woman show, "Planting in the Dust." The play is sponsored by the Land Institute with

support from the Kansas Committee for the Humanities and will tour throughout the state.

Nancy Kelley, formerly of Emporia, is now Director of Theatre at Highland Community College. She replaces **Cynthia Wheeler** who was tragically killed in a car accident this past summer.

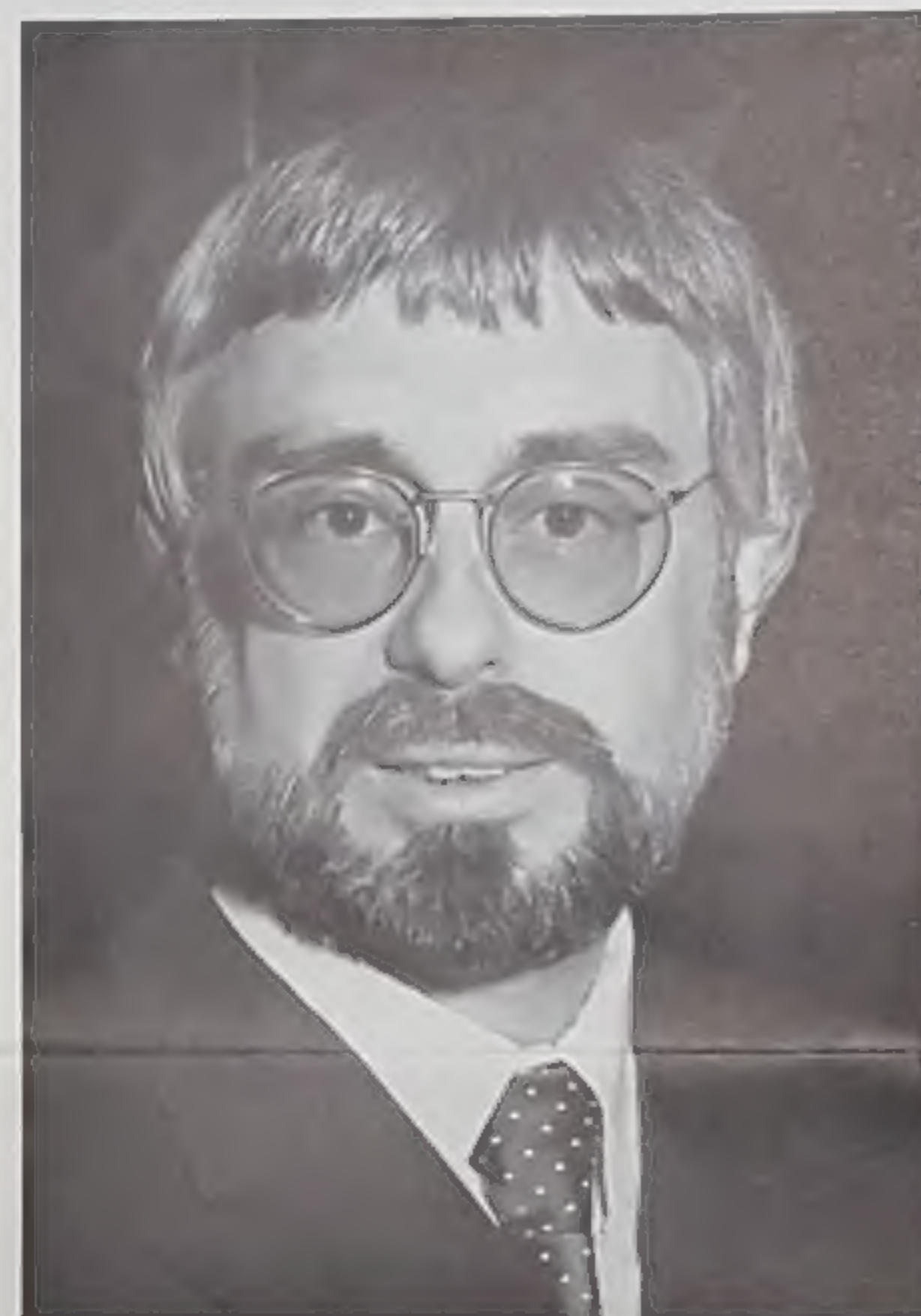
Unfortunately, in the summer number of *Marquee*, the names of two people who were specially recognized for their achievements at the state AACT/FEST banquet in Salina were omitted. **Wichita Community Theatre's August Hill** was cited for lighting design and **Piet Knetsch** for set design. Both August and Piet made important contributions to the success of "Philadelphia, Here I Come!"

PIET KNETSCH LEAVES STATE

Piet Knetsch is well-known to many theatre people in Kansas. Most recently, he has held the post of Business Manager for Wichita Community Theatre. He has taught theatre and directed at Bethany College in Lindsborg. A member of AKT since it's founding, Piet has served in a number of leadership capacities on the AKT Board of Directors, including President. This past spring, he directed WCT's award-winning production, "Philadelphia, Here I Come!"

This month, Piet moved with his family from Kansas to Atlanta, Georgia. Piet's wife, Dottie, has taken up a fellowship to work toward her Ph.D. in theology at Emory University.

All associated with Kansas theatre will miss his leadership and "get-the-job-done" determination. We wish Piet well in his new home and look forward to his return visits to Kansas.



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Medium (budget \$5,000-\$9999/year)	\$40
Large (budget over \$10,000/year)	\$70
ANGEL*#	\$125
Corporate*#	\$150

* Includes a tax deductible contribution.

Convention registration fee is waived for Sustainers and ANGELS.

Division Affiliation (choose one)

Children's Theatre _____
Community Theatre (KCTC) _____
Professional Theatre _____
Secondary School Theatre _____
University/College Theatre _____

Mail this application with your check to:

AKT Central Office
1628 Dudley Court
Lawrence, KS 66044
(913) 842-3502

NOMINEES FOR AKT AWARDS SOUGHT

Each year AKT honors at our annual convention those individuals and theatres across the state who are making special contributions to theatre. Awards are made in the following categories.

- Special Merit Award.** Given for an achievement that is short-term in nature and primarily local in impact, during the period of time between conventions.
- Outstanding Achievement In Theatre Award.** Given for an achievement of state, regional or national significance that may be of either short-term or long-term duration.
- Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame Award.** Given for extraordinary work and commitment to theatre over an extended period of time. The recipient should be either a native Kansan or an individual who has worked in Kansas for a substantial number of years.
- Business and Kansas Theatre Award.** Given to businesses either within or outside the state that have supported theatre in Kansas. This support is assessed in relationship to the size of the business. The support can be in the form of cash, equipment, services, or other non-tangible contributions.

More than one award may be made in each category. Awards are not necessarily made in each category each year.

Nominations in the form of a detailed letter should be mailed as soon as possible to:

John Stefano, Chair
AKT Awards Committee
Emporia State University Theatre
Emporia, KS 66801

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AMERICANS STAGE "ANTIGONE" IN GREECE

Andrew Tsubaki, Professor of Theatre and Media Arts at the International Theatre Studies Center, the University of Kansas, has reported on a production of Sophocles' "Antigone" which he helped stage in Greece this summer.

The performers were young American professionals. They were directed by Heinz-Uwe Haus, GDR, with the assistance of Nicos Shafkalis of Greece. Andrew Tsubaki choreographed chorus movements and was in charge of the actors' physical training.

The play was staged in the 2,300 year-old fort of Oiniades in the central-western coastal area of Greece. The event was sponsored by the International Workshop and Study Center for

the Ancient drama, established last year by the local people of the Greek towns of Katochi and Agrinion situated near Oiniades. After three performances in Oiniades, the troupe went on to perform in Cyprus.

The audiences were enthusiastic in their response to the performances, particularly appreciating the strong acting and the innovative use of the chorus, which was comprised of the actors who intermittently also functioned in their individual acting roles. There is hope that the production of *Antigone* is the start of what will become a new theatre festival in Greece in the future.

A videotape, with dialogue in English, has been made of the production.



NATIONAL AWARD TO TWINK LYNCH

Twink Lynch, Managing Director of Topeka Civic Theatre and former Executive Director of AKT, has received yet another laurel. This most recent honor, the Distinguished Merit Award, was presented by the American Association of Community Theatre at their national festival in Norman, Oklahoma in June. It recognizes Twink for her significant and valuable contributions made in the promotion and development of the highest standards for community theatre.

Among the considerations for her selection were her work as a national consultant in community theatre management, her authorship of the correspondence course in volunteer and staff development in community theatre, and her state, regional and national workshops in volunteer development and boardmanship.

Congratulations, Twink!

AKT RECEIVES DONATED SCRIPTS

Three original plays by Kansas playwrights have recently been deposited in the AKT script library and are available for borrowing without charge. The plays and their authors are:

"Here's to You, Grandma" (Accession No. 0451) and "Wild Bill" (Accession No. 0452) by John Clifford of Lawrence; and "Harold," a musical in three acts (Accession No. 0449) by Frank Gilpin of Tonganoxie.

Thanks to Prairie Players of Kingman who have generously donated a stack of scripts to the AKT collection. AKT is in special need of acquiring newly released plays from the contemporary repertoire for our script library. PLEASE follow Prairie Players' example and send to the AKT office scripts for sharing with your fellow Kansas theatre-folk.

CALLING ALL KANSAS PLAYWRIGHTS!

The Bob Woodley Memorial Press, Washburn University, wishes to identify Kansas Playwrights. If you write plays or know someone who does, please send name and address to:

Repha Buckman, Drama Editor
Woodley Press
Box 175
Sterling, KS 67579

"FUNDRAISING" CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MANHATTAN

The Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas is sponsoring a two-day conference concentrating on the important issue of fundraising for the non-profit organization. The conference will be held at the Manhattan Holiday, 530 Richard Drive (913) 539-5311. Monday/Tuesday, November 2 and 3.

Ellen Morgan, Executive Director of ACAAK has assembled a most impressive line-up of presenters:

Joan Flanagan is a Chicago-based, nationally recognized independent consultant on fundraising, management, and public relations for non-profit organizations;

Francis Hodsoll is Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency that awards matching grants to non-profit, tax-exempt arts organizations; and

Jim Rhodes is Supervisor of the Foundation Center Cooperating Collection at the Topeka Public Library. The Center houses an extensive collection of reference materials on private foundation funding, non-profit organizational management and proposal writing.

For information on the conference write or call:

ACAAK
P.O. Box 62
Oberlin, KS 67749
(913) 475-3913

KANSAS ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION HOLDS CONFERENCE ON NETWORKING

A conference on the theme of networking, sponsored by the Kansas Alliance for Arts Education (KAAE), was held September 25-26 at Kansas State University in Manhattan. The conference grew out of a need to develop better networking systems within the state in the area of arts education.

Conference activities commenced with a reception and dinner featuring Harland Priddle, Secretary of Commerce for the state of Kansas. Secretary Priddle addressed the conference on the relationship between arts and arts education to the economic development of the state.

Judy Roberts, President of the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education offered a series of presentations designed to provide the tools for accomplishing the advocacy and networking task. The closing speaker was Robert DeBruyn, author of *The Master Teacher*, an innovative and highly popular program for staff development used by thousands of schools world-wide.

AKT is proud to be associated with the goals and programs of KAAE. Attending the conference as representatives from AKT were Teresa Stohs, who is on the KAAE Board, Mary Doveton, newly elected KAAE Secretary, Gerald Snider, KAAE District 1 Representative, John Stefano and Louise Hanson.

Arts education has been a central concern of AKT for a number of years. All AKT members, and in particular the teachers among us, are urged to support KAAE, whose goals are shared by all of us. For membership information, contact:

Carol Heil, KAAE President
7542 Lathrop
Kansas City, KS 66109
(913) 334-4333

To receive a copy of the recently published position paper on arts education in Kansas, titled *The Arts*, write:

Educational Assistance Section
Kansas State Department of
Education
120 E. 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

CONFERENCES ELSEWHERE...

The ninth annual MATC (Mid-America Theatre Conference) is scheduled for March 18-20 in Kansas City, Missouri. Convention highlights include symposia on directing and theatre history in addition to a program on children's theatre. Inquiries should be addressed to Professor Glenn Q. Pierce, 317 Murphy Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

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AKT TO MAKE VIDEO ON KANSAS THEATRE

A working committee, headed by John Stefano of Emporia, has recently embarked on the task of preparing a video presentation depicting the many faces of theatre in Kansas. The Southwestern Bell Foundation has awarded grant funds that will partially underwrite this special AKT project.

Eventually, the video will be shown at service and business organizations throughout the state. The main goal of the video is to create and expand an awareness of theatre and the role it plays in community life. It is also hoped that the video will encourage participation in theatre through direct involvement in local theatre productions as well as stimulate financial support.

The video committee has two special requests from *Marquee* readers:

1. Please send black/white photographs of the exterior of your theatre to the AKT office. (You may add an interior photo or two if you wish.) All AKT-member theatres are encouraged to contribute: community, professional, children's, school, university/college. These photographs will be used in the video to demonstrate the variety of theatres actively engaged in the state. WE WANT YOUR THEATRE TO BE INCLUDED, so please do not delay in sending your photos.

2. The video committee would like to borrow any video tapes you may have made of your productions, rehearsals, or other theatre activities. The videos should be of good quality, with clear audio. AKT will return all tapes to you after review.

The cooperation of your theatre will be acknowledged on the finished video tape.

Send your material to: Videotape Committee, c/o AKT Central Office, 1628 Dudley Court, Lawrence, KS 66044.

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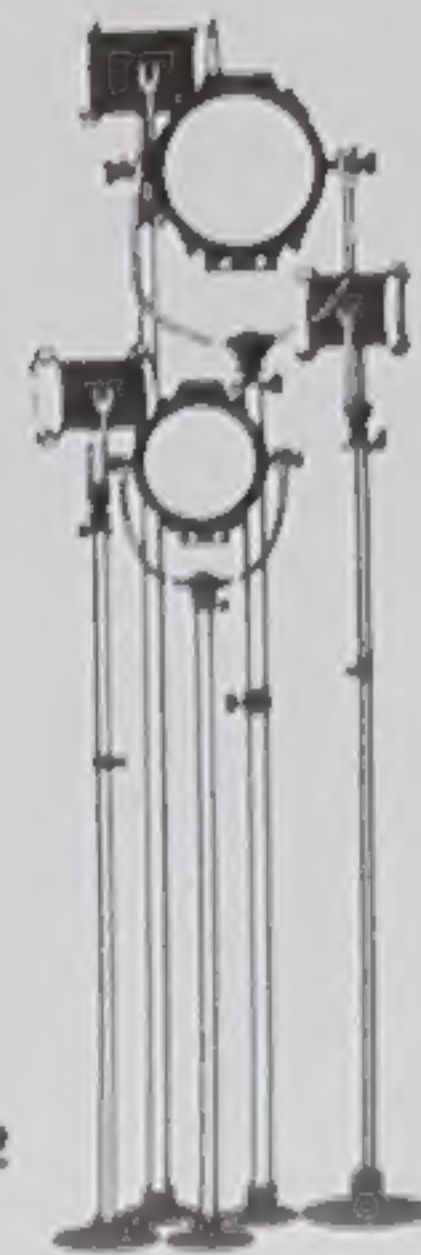
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66205

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225 Baker,
Salina, KS 67401

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(316) 681-1566 (w); 685-8818 (h)
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Wichita, KS 67218

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(316) 367-8482 (h)
R.R. 1, Box 50,
Walton, KS 67151

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(913) 469-8500, ext. 3273 (w);
782-6384 (h)
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12345 College Blvd.,
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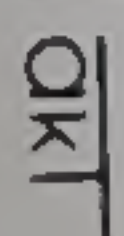
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Lawrence, KS 66044

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